

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 16, 2018

The Honorable Jim Mattis  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Mattis:

As Members of the House of Representatives with an interest in national security, we write to you to reinforce congressional intent when it comes to the implementation of reports covering climate change and the threat it poses to the United States and our armed forces operating and training at home and around the globe.

On May 10, 2018, The Washington Post reported that during revision of the Department's January 2018 Screening Level Vulnerability Assessment Survey Report, defense officials omitted information relating to how military installations report their vulnerability to sea level rise, how climate change is affecting the operating environment in the Arctic, and what potential risks the Department faces with respect to its ability to conduct training and testing activities that have important impacts on our readiness.

While we appreciate the need to update reports when it is appropriate and necessary, we are disturbed that the revisions may have intentionally targeted mentions of climate change. The facts are clear: climate change poses a threat to the Department and the nation.

Congress recognized those facts on a bipartisan basis in the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, which expressed the sense of Congress that climate change is a direct threat to national security. Furthermore, the Congressionally mandated report requires each Service within the Department to assess the top ten military installations likely to be affected by climate change over the next 20 years and specific mitigations that may be necessary to ensure the continued operational viability and resiliency of the identified installations. The provision also instructs combatant commanders to incorporate the effects of a changing climate into their strategic plans.

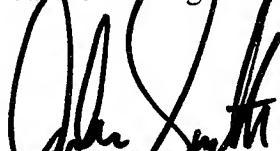
This language was supported in both the House Armed Services Committee and during a roll call vote on the Floor of the House. We expect that when this report is delivered to Congress later this year, it will contain candid assessments in line with the clear instructions passed by Congress and signed into law by the President.


We reiterate that the statutory language is quite clear; however, should there be any ambiguity that you believe will impair your ability to fulfill Congress's mandate, we are, of course, at your

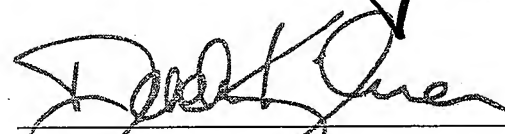
disposal. Thank you for your service and dedication to the United States, and for your continued focus on this issue as you fulfill your duties as Secretary of Defense.

Sincerely,


  
James R. Langevin


  
Adam Smith

  
Gerald E. Connolly

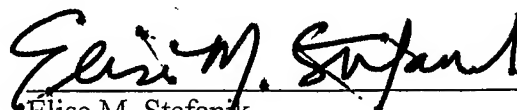
  
Derek Kilmer

  
Paul D. Tonko

  
Brian Fitzpatrick

  
Steve Knight

  
Steve Cohen


  
Elise M. Stefanik

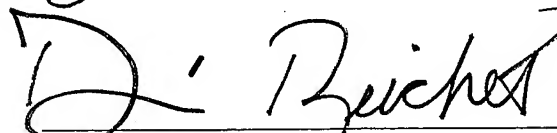
  
Ted Deutch

  
Carlos Curbelo

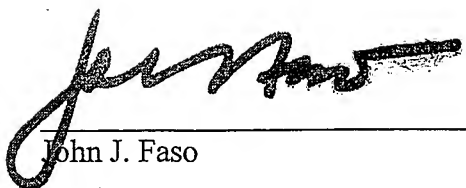
  
Scott Peters

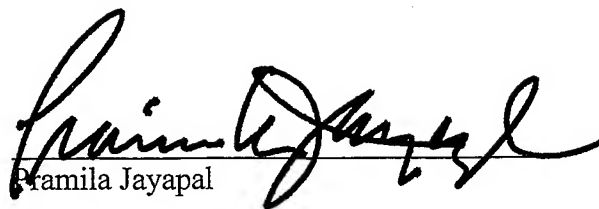
  
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

  
Jackie Speier


  
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John Katko

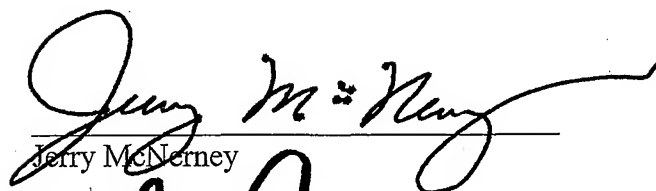
  
John J. Faso

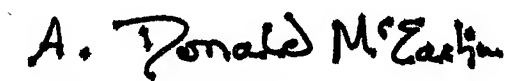
  
Pramila Jayapal

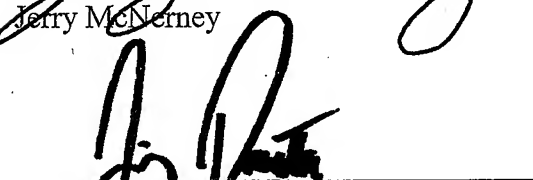
  
Carol Shea-Porter

  
Thomas Suozzi

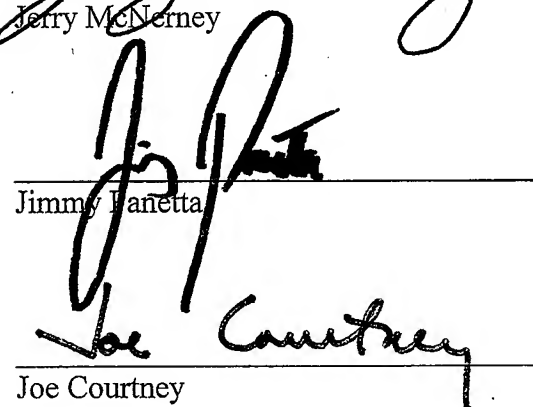
  
Salud Carbajal

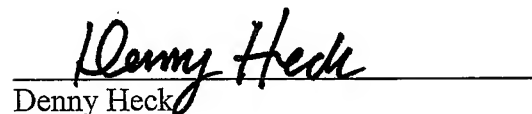
  
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A. Donald McEachin

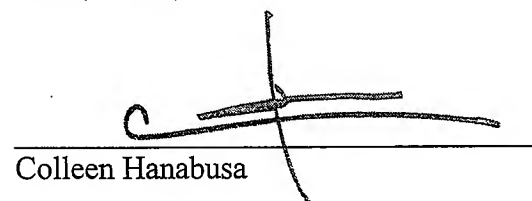
  
Jimmy Panetta

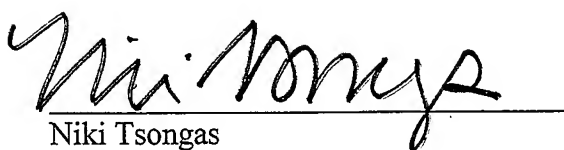
  
Anthony G. Brown


  
Joe Courtney

  
Denny Heck

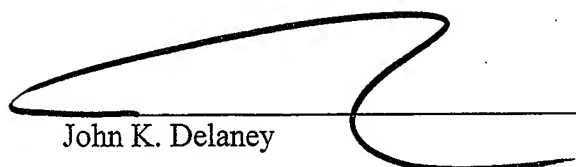
  
Rick Larsen

  
Colleen Hanabusa

  
Niki Tsongas

  
Alan Lowenthal

  
John Garamendi

  
John K. Delaney

  
Betty McCollum

Ryan Costello

Ryan A. Costello

Mimi Walters

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Julia Brownley

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Seth Moulton

Seth Moulton

Matt Cartwright

Matt Cartwright

Ruben Gallego

Ruben Gallego

Bill Foster

Bill Foster

Jamie Raskin

Jamie Raskin

Tulsi Gabbard

Tulsi Gabbard

William R. Keating

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